

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01

/059 W

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R 231144Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 602

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6874

LIMDIS

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, US

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 6176, STATE 165225, ISLAMABAD 6853

1. I WELCOMED DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO CONVEY TO DAUD OUR CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF A POLICY OF CONFRONTATION WITH PAKISTAN, AND I REGRET THAT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION THAT SUBJECT (STATE 164400) HAS NOW BEEN WATERED DOWN. FOR REASONS SKETCHED OUT IN ISLAMABAD REFTEL, I FEAR THAT DAUD'S APPROACH, ESPECIALLY AS OUTLINED TO SENATOR PERCY, COULD BE SOMETHING OF A TIMEBOMB. AT THIS JUNCTURE WHEN INDIA, BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN ARE EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR RESOLVING THE MOST URGENT QUESTIONS REMAINING FROM 1971 WAR, THIS REGION NEEDS THE PROSPECT OF HOT CONFRONTATION  
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BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN LIKE

A HOLE IN THE HEAD. I THEREFORE THOUGHT THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO MAKE THIS CLEAR TO DAUD WAS NOT ONLY WELL CONCEIVED BUT WELL TIMED.

2. I HAD INTENDED PUT ABOVE VIEWS TO DEPARTMENT SEVERAL DAYS AGO BUT WAS DELAYED BECAUSE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH FLOOD-RELATED ACTIVITIES. ON MY RETURN TO ISLAMABAD THIS MORNING (AUG 23), I MET WITH YUSUF BUCH, A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRIMIN BHUTTO, AT BUCH'S REQUEST. HE SAID PRIMIN, WHO NOW IN FLOODED REGION, HAD ASKED HIM TO SPEAK WITH ME ABOUT AFGHANISTAN SITUATION. BHUTTO SAID HE MUCH APPRECIATED ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO'S COMMENT TO AMB SULTAN KHAN THAT HE INTENDED TO TELL AFGHAN AMB IN WASHINGTON OF OUR STRONG HOPE THAT GOA WILL KEEP COOL ON PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. BHUTTO ALSO RECALLED THAT SISCO HAD TOLD SULTAN KHAN, AFTER DAUD'S REQUEST FOR OUR GOOD OFFICES ON BALUCH ARRESTS, THAT WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO GET IN MIDDLE ON THIS MATTER (STATE 164399). BHUTTO WANTED ME TO KNOW HIS FEELING THAT IF USG EVEN LENDS AN EAR TO AFGHAN DEMARCHES OF THIS TYPE, IT WILL ENCOURAGE GOA TO THINK IT CAN DO MORE THAN MERELY MAKE DEMARCHES; IT MAY MISLEAD GOA TO BELIEVE USG SHARES KABUL'S DISAPPROVING VIEW OF GOP ACTIONS. BHUTTO HOPES THAT USG WILL MAINTAIN POSITION THAT WE WILL NOT ENCOURAGE ANY INTERFERENCE BY KABUL IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR ANY ATTEMPT BY KABUL TO CREATE TURBULENCE ON SO-CALLED PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE.

3. I TOLD BUCH WE SHARED GOP'S DESIRE TO AVOID TURBULENCE IN REGION. AS SISCO HAD TOLD SULTAN KHAN, WE DID NOT WANT TO GET IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN BUT THAT DID NOT MEAN WE WOULD LIK WITH EQUANIMITY ON HEATING UP OF ISSUE WHICH COULD THREATEN INTERNATIONAL STABILITY IN THE AREA. AS FOR BHUTTO'S SPECIFIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS TO US, I WOULD REPORT THEM PROMPTLY. I ADDED THAT PERSONALLY I SHARED SOME OF GOP'S CONCERN.

4. I BELIEVE IT IN OUR INTEREST TO LEAVE GOA IN NO AMBIGUITY ON DIMNESS WITH WHICH WE WOULD VIEW AN ACTIVIST  
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KABUL POLICY STIRRING UP PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE. I HOPE WE CAN FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE THIS CLEAR WITHOUT BRINGING IN POINTS THAT MIGHT HAVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE EFFECT ANTICIPATED BY AMB NEUMANN. IT WOULD SEEM BETTER TO LEAVE DAUD IN NO DOUBT ON THIS SUBJECT WHILE RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN ARE STILL REASONABLY GOOD RATHER THAN RISK WAITING UNTIL A CANDID EXPRESSION OF OUR CONCERN MIGHT BE TOO LATE TO AVERT

TROUBLE.

5. I OUGHT TO BE ABLE RESPOND TO PRIMIN BHUTTO ON HIS  
SUGGESTIONS THIS SUBJECT, AND WOULD WELCOME DEPART-  
MENT'S GUIDANCE.  
SOBER

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